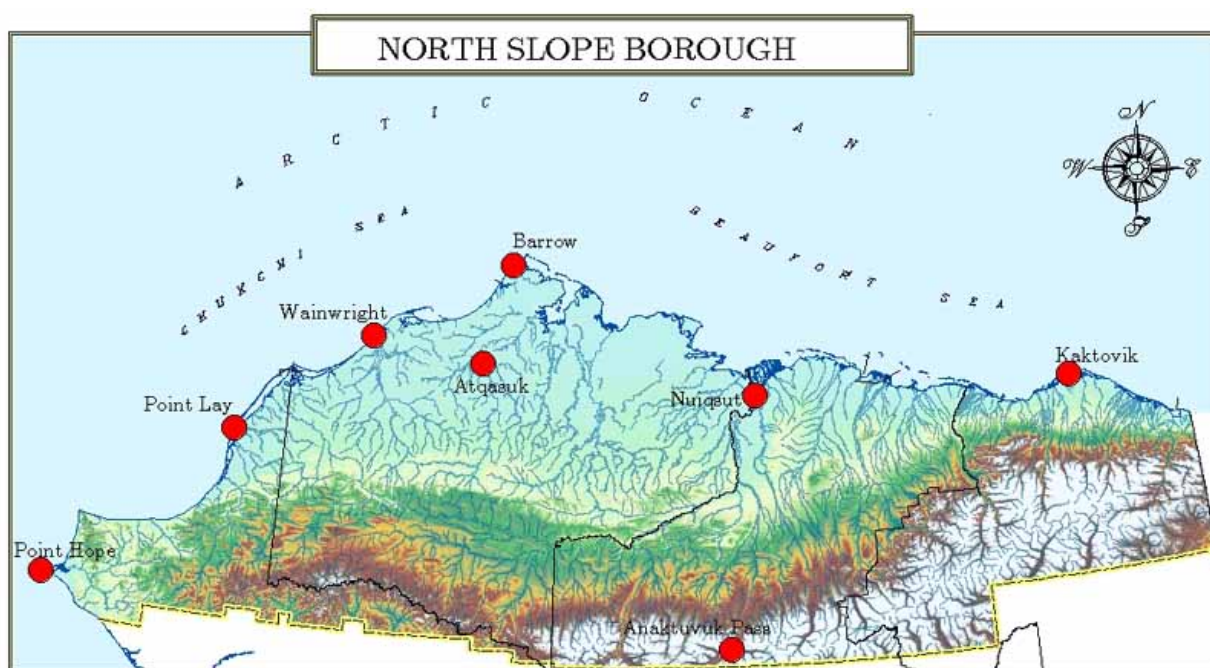


# North Slope Communications Protocol

**Communication Guidelines  
to Support Meaningful Involvement  
of the North Slope Communities  
in EPA Decision-Making**



*May 2009*

## **Message from the Acting Regional Administrator:**

In Region 10 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), communication through community involvement is a cornerstone of much of the work we do.

This document represents a tailored approach for the Region's communications in Alaska with communities of the North Slope. Because of the area's unique geography, culture, and environmental issues, we need to take extra care to ensure our efforts to involve communities on the North Slope meet their needs, as well as comply with our Agency's public involvement requirements.

Communication is a two-way street, and most successful when built on a foundation of knowledge, trust, solid relationships, basic courtesy, and the right resources. The North Slope Communications Protocol (Protocol) seeks to lay out sensible processes, practical tools, and helpful background information to prepare Region 10 employees for successful community involvement on the North Slope. The goal for this Protocol is to improve the agency's effectiveness in working with North Slope communities. By adhering to the guidelines in this Protocol, you will work more effectively and fairly in these communities.

The Region will implement this Protocol beginning in May 2009. It is intended to be a living document which will be revised as we learn over time. This document is expected to be a well-used, hands-on guide for EPA staff and managers who are working on issues which may affect the communities of the North Slope. Close adherence to this communication guidance should enable North Slope communities to have meaningful involvement in EPA actions that can potentially affect them which is an important goal of our environmental justice program.

Sometimes we must look beyond minimum regulatory requirements, and go the extra step, or mile or two, to truly have meaningful involvement of the public in our decision-making. At the same time, we must comply with all federal laws, regulations, and policies, including environmental justice and tribal consultation. I am committed to open, fair, and timely processes and expect that all employees of EPA Region 10 share that commitment.

Sincerely,

Michelle L. Pirzadeh  
Acting Regional Administrator

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## 1.0 Introduction

This document is intended to be used by all EPA Region 10 personnel who conduct public meetings and public hearings, process permits, organize and carry out inspections, or any other action representing EPA and Region 10 on the North Slope of Alaska. It is the responsibility of each program to determine specifically how it will implement the Protocol for its work. Some projects may warrant an intensive, comprehensive communications effort. For others, a more abbreviated effort may be in the best interest of the agency, the communities, and the project proponent.

To facilitate using this document it is organized as follows:

- It begins with the statement of the Region 10 communications protocol.
- Presented next are general principles for successful communications with communities; these are provided to be used in implementing the Protocol.
- A brief description of the North Slope communities follows and provides some of the context needed to move forward with implementation.
- The document concludes with appendices that provide more detail on the North Slope communities and resources for implementing the Protocol.

The Protocol encourages and assumes that Region 10 program staff will be routinely communicating with one another and will actively seek guidance and advice from program area specialists, including the appropriate tribal coordinators, environmental justice coordinator, community involvement coordinator, and communications staff.

While this document is not intended to cover communities outside of the North Slope, the principles of communication and community involvement described here are applicable anywhere. Specific conditions and the steps taken to account for them may vary greatly across the state of Alaska and will need to be included in any effort to apply the Protocol elsewhere.

The Protocol will be amended, as appropriate, over time, to reflect changes in our responsibilities and authorities and to capture what we learn as we work to communicate better with our partners and the communities on the North Slope.

Questions about implementing the protocol or updates to the protocol should be directed to the Community Involvement Coordinator of the Oil and Gas Sector team.

## **2.0 Communication with North Slope Communities**

### **Region 10 Protocol Statement:**

Region 10 will:

- Maintain and improve our working relationships with communities on the North Slope of Alaska,
- Use communication strategies that take into account the cultural context of the North Slope communities,
- Communicate early both internally and with North Slope communities as soon as Region 10 staff learn of a proposed project or issue.

### **Implementing the Protocol:**

Region 10 will use communication strategies that take into account the cultural context of the North Slope communities by adapting our communications to the values and practices of those communities. In this way, Region 10 will practice culturally appropriate communications for each project related to the North Slope. For each project (or project category) related to the North Slope, there must be a deliberate consideration of whether there is a need to prepare and implement a formal communications strategy. If a formal strategy is not deemed necessary, the Protocol must still be implemented by the program.

Communication with North Slope communities can begin as soon as EPA learns of a project (perhaps even before an application is received, for example). This requires EPA program staff to communicate regularly with each other concerning their activities on the North Slope. Development of a communication strategy can also begin as soon as EPA learns of a project. Routine and open communication with the communities is an integral part of the entire project process, beginning at project inception, not from the start of the comment period. The type and frequency of communication will be in alignment with the expressed needs of the communities.

Region 10 will routinely plan for a 60-day window for public comment opportunity. This does not mean we will routinely offer 60-day comment periods. Rather, we will set aside a timeframe of 60 days, to provide for any comment period extension requests, to accommodate any scheduling changes that might be necessary after consideration of the subsistence year activities (described Section 5), or changes due to logistical complications, and to build flexibility into our schedules to account for other unforeseen delays.

Part of conducting meaningful public involvement with communities of the North Slope includes applying cultural competence. Cultural competence refers to the ability to interact effectively with people of different cultures. It is the responsibility of each program to determine specifically how implementation of the Protocol be done for a given project. The Protocol is a guide to considerations that each staff member will confront and provides a general framework

within which each program can determine how it will implement the Protocol. A toolbox is provided later in this document to help staff think through the process of developing an appropriate communications plan (see Appendix D).

## **General principles for successful communications**

Because communication involves the two-way exchange of information, effective communication requires an understanding of those with whom you are communicating. With increased understanding we will have more effective communication and a better working relationship. By following these principles, you will be taking steps to implement the Protocol.

**Do your homework.** Contact the tribal coordinator to learn as much as you can about the community's surroundings, geography, and pertinent history that can have a bearing on the outcome of your work. Learn about related past issues before beginning work with communities. At the same time, avoid making assumptions about current needs and perspectives.

**Avoid beginning communications and community involvement during whaling season.** This is a critical point. Whaling occurs in both spring and fall for North Slope communities. Other important subsistence harvesting times must be considered, as well (see Section 5).

**Allow more time!** Start early. Communication on the North Slope simply takes more time than in other areas of Region 10. Mail is slower and the internet is generally less reliable. Community members like to have plenty of time to consider information and consult with each other. Requests for extensions to comment periods are likely.

**Invite the communities to help plan and set up the public involvement process, where possible.** Communicate with communities about their needs, and work with them to schedule comment periods and meetings and/or hearings.

**Give clear, flexible (yet predictable) schedules.** Clearly outline the steps, milestones (key opportunities for public input) and timeframes in our decision-making process.

**Be transparent in decision-making.** Be clear who is making decisions, how they will be made, and what information will be considered. Educate people about the legal mandates and constraints of the agency. Be clear about how community input can influence the decision-making process. Engage communities in discussions to identify both the type and timing of information the agency can use and the flexibility associated with both. Provide information to help communities prepare their comments so that they are effectively communicating with the Region about our pending actions. Inform communities on opportunities to appeal Agency decisions with which they may not agree and be clear about the process used to determine the validity of appeals.

**Communicate early and often.** We strive for a working relationship with communities in which there are no, or very few, surprises. This is accomplished by keeping all parties informed of how the process is proceeding and making revisions, within the possible range of discretion, to respond to changing conditions and needs. Striving for no surprises does not mean that there is no room for disagreement. A working relationship with few surprises allows for the easier identification of disagreement without the accompanying issues of trust. This also provides the most time to address those disagreements and seek resolution.

**Know who you are talking with.**

- 1) There are limited numbers of people in the villages and there are many roles to be filled. Roles and leadership are fluid and change from time to time. It is important that you identify who you are talking with and in what capacity they are talking with you. For example, is the person speaking as a whaling captain, as an officer in the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, as the President of the Village for-profit corporation, or as an elder?
- 2) Note that the same person may have varied roles in the community; the officer in the for-profit corporation might be a member of the whaling commission, or an elected member of the North Slope Borough (NSB) assembly.

In Alaskan communities there are three entities that co-exist and are loosely related, but have official differences. These are:

- 1) Borough/municipality/city--this entity is recognized and draws its authority from the laws of the State of Alaska and its Constitution. This is equivalent to any city/village/county in the lower 48 states.
- 2) Native Village--this entity is a federally recognized tribe and is afforded all of the considerations that are required of federal agencies; for example formal government-to-government consultation can take place between EPA and a Native Village.
- 3) Regional and Village Corporations--this entity is unique to Alaska and is a for-profit corporation, created by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), whose shareholders are Alaska Natives. These corporations are the same as any other corporation and are subject to the laws of commerce with no special standing under federal law.

It can become confusing to sort out who is representing which interest, but this understanding is paramount to effectively communicating and being able to respond appropriately to comments.

**Ensure the message you sent is received.** It goes without saying that communication requires both transmitting and receiving a message. Do not assume that any communications have occurred if you have only sent (transmitted) a message. Just because you sent an e-mail does not mean that your message was received and read. Depending upon the importance of the message, you may need to follow-up with phone calls until you actually speak with the person to whom you sent the message to verify receipt. This also allows you to provide any needed clarity or additional information that the person may need.



**Get meaningful information to people in the communities before beginning a comment period.** Again, mail can be slow! Verify receipt. Again, you may need to follow-up with phone calls.

**Provide general summary information and make details available.** Keep information at the appropriate level of complexity, communicated in a culturally appropriate manner. Provide summaries. At the same time, more complicated details, technical references, and background information should be made available for those who want them.

**Honor basic communication courtesies.** Listen. Let people know they have been heard. Close the feedback loop. Address comments specifically. Say how you will solve issues. Talk with the Region's tribal coordinator, become aware of culturally appropriate communication courtesies and apply them.

**Value cultural differences.** The indigenous people of the North Slope have successfully lived sustainably in their environment. They have a great accumulation of knowledge and much to teach and share. They are experts in their own lives in their environment.

**Ensure that the material you are sending is likely to be relevant to the receiver.** Some community leaders have noted that they often get so many materials from agencies that they cannot distinguish those that require their direct or immediate attention. Consequently, it may be easy to overlook relevant documents which do warrant attention. At the same time, we must ensure that mailing lists and contact lists are complete and current. Follow up with communities to ensure that the materials were received and that the recipient is the appropriate contact.

**Be inclusive.** An inclusive effort is one where decision-making includes information and perspectives from diverse points of view and experiences. Recognize that there are many different perspectives within any community. The opinions of a few individuals do not necessarily represent the views of the wider community.

**Provide an EPA e-mail address and a physical address for receiving comments.**  
**As a back-up to hard copy on-site information, work with the Region 10 webteam and consider establishing a website or other internet component for your project.** If developed, consolidate all available information on the webpage and include contact information. Keep it up to date. Include both simple summary information and access to more detailed information. Although internet access is limited, a webpage still needs to be considered as an option for people to get information. Remember to also provide the information in hard copy form in one or more central locations within the community.

**Evaluate Your Efforts.** Along the way, and when your project is concluding, evaluate your community involvement efforts. Remember to request feedback from the communities about

what worked, how it worked, what did not work, how it did not work, and what the agency could do better next time.

## **Communication Limitations**

**Internet access is generally limited and expensive, with variable service.** Many people do not have easy, cheap access to internet information. Put all information on the website, but also provide hard copies at locations in the community.

**Telephone service is not always reliable.** Additionally, be aware that you may need to call people multiple times, at different times of day, in order to reach them.

**Teleconference capabilities vary and are not always reliable.** Equipment is not always compatible and service can be sporadic. Always test a teleconference system before committing to having a teleconference. Work directly with the teleconference person in the village/city. Even with the best of planning you can encounter a failure of the teleconferencing system. Never rely solely on teleconferencing as your only official public comment collection mechanism, and always have a contingency plan. Teleconference rooms are available in all of the villages. Do not publicize the teleconference call-in number or you could have a single telephone problem take down the entire teleconference. Instead, publicize the village teleconference public meeting *location* and encourage people to attend.

**Mail can take a very long time.** It is a good idea to call ahead to make sure your project material has arrived at its destination. As noted above, make sure project material is available in the communities before starting a comment period. Material should be sent to a variety of locations in the same community.

**Some communities do not have libraries or information repositories available for documents.** Sometimes city, tribal, school, and post office buildings are used for these purposes. Call and find out. While there is no single source of this information, it is often most efficient to talk with someone in Region 10 who has experience in your area of interest.

**Translation may be required.** Check in advance with the communities to find out what their translation preferences are, and make needed arrangements. Local translators may be available. Simultaneous translation equipment is available for checkout from the Region 10 Public Environmental Resource Center (PERC). Bring the equipment even if you think you may not need it.

### 3.0 Tribal Consultation

EPA has tribal consultation responsibilities outside of the public participation process. EPA's tribal consultation process is required and supported by the 1984 EPA Policy for the Administration of Environmental Programs on Indian reservations (a.k.a. the "Indian Policy"), Executive Order 13175: Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, and the EPA Region 10 Tribal Consultation Framework.

"Consultation" means the process of seeking, discussing, and considering the views of federally recognized Tribal governments at the earliest time in EPA Region 10's decision-making. Consultation generally means more than simply providing information about what the agency is planning to do and allowing comment. Rather, Region 10's commitment to tribal consultation means respectful, meaningful, and effective two-way communication that works toward a consensus reflecting the concerns of the affected federally recognized Tribe(s) before EPA makes its decision or moves forward with its action. The Region will maintain government-to-government communications with North Slope federally recognized tribal governments.

Tribal consultation, while a requirement of its own, must be considered a part of the overall communications Protocol and planned for accordingly. Both the EPA and the Tribe should work together to arrange tribal consultation. Communication with tribal governments on the North Slope does not constitute tribal consultation unless it is specifically designated as such.

Contact the North Slope Tribal Coordinator, the Alaska Resource Extraction Tribal Policy Advisor or the Region 10 Tribal Consultation Specialist and refer to existing regional guidance on tribal consultation for assistance in developing individual tribal consultation plans. In addition, some tribes have their own tribal consultation policy; please request this from the tribal government. Consultation policies developed by affected tribes should be considered when developing tribal consultation plans and to determine a mutual understanding of what tribal consultation means to both parties.

Here are websites to help you get started with your research about tribal consultation requirements:

Executive Order 13175 - Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments:  
<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/eo/eo13175.htm>

Region 10 Tribal Consultation Framework and Guiding Principles:  
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/Programs/Consultation>

Tribal Programs in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/tribal.NSF/>

## 4.0 Environmental Justice

Ensuring environmental justice for all people, including vulnerable populations and communities disproportionately impacted by various governmental and industrial activities, is a national priority of EPA. EPA's environmental justice practices are required and supported by Executive Order 12898: Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. The overarching goal of the Agency is to integrate environmental justice principles and practices into all the activities of every Program and of Program staff. This will be achieved, in part, through staff completion of both the introductory and advanced environmental justice training courses offered in Region 10.

Application of this Protocol should enable you to achieve our environmental justice goal of ensuring the meaningful involvement of North Slope communities in EPA actions that affect them. Achieving the environmental justice goals of avoiding and mitigating disproportionate impacts and ensuring fair and equitable environmental decisions for everyone are the subjects of extensive guidance and training (see below). However, implementation of this Protocol should be a big step forward to integrating environmental justice into our program work.

Environmental justice considerations are also an important part of our work on air and water permits, enforcement and compliance, contaminated sites cleanup, grants review and management, and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) project reviews. EPA staff can use discretion in implementing program policies and guidance to ensure that environmental justice issues are considered and addressed.

Contact the Region 10 environmental justice program manager and the environmental justice coordinator in your program office. They can help you identify environmental justice issues at your project site or activity, including use of environmental justice assessment tools.

Listed below are resources to help you get started with your research about our Environmental Justice requirements:

Environmental Justice Policies and Guidance:

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/ej/index.html>

Environmental Justice Contacts in Region 10:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/ocrej.nsf/Environmental+Justice/EJ-Contacts>

Environmental Justice Training in Region 10:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/ocrej.nsf/environmental+justice/training>

## 5.0 About the North Slope

### Geography

The North Slope (NS) is located along the northern-most portion of Alaska. It includes eight distinct communities.



<u>Community</u>	<u>Approximate Population (<i>numbers are changeable</i>)</u>
Point Hope	764
Point Lay	260
Wainwright	556
Barrow	4500
Atkasuk	260
Nuiqsut	416
Kaktovik	286
Anaktuvuk Pass	358

These communities are within a county-level political subdivision called the North Slope Borough (NSB). The NSB covers a very large geographical area and is comparable in size to the state of Minnesota. It is located completely above the Arctic Circle. These communities are remote arctic villages, with no roads between them. Agency access to the villages generally occurs by bush plane.

### **Cultural Information**

These villages are home to native Inupiat residents. About 69 percent of the residents are all or part Alaska native. Whaling is central to the culture.

This is a culture with an oral (spoken) and aural (listening) tradition. Inupiaq is spoken and translation services may be needed in some cases. English is widely spoken, but in many cases it is a second language.

In this traditional society, elders hold special status, as do whaling captains and their wives.

For more detailed discussion about each native village, see Appendix E.

### **An Example Subsistence Year**

The following, adapted from work done by Molly Pederson of the North Slope Borough, is a generalized example of activities that take place throughout the year in the subsistence life of the villagers on the North Slope. This is not a rigid schedule, but is an attempt to put the yearly flow of work and life of the villagers onto the twelve month calendar that we are all familiar with. There is variability from time to time and from village to village, which is one reason that, for us to serve the North Slope communities, it is so important to communicate with the villages to ascertain what is happening and what is anticipated.

As the example on the following page illustrates, there is no perfect, ideal time to begin a community involvement effort. The protocol sets out a process for determining the best way to proceed, working directly with the communities.

**An Example Subsistence Year in the North Slope Borough Area**

**January**

- Trapping continues
- Seal hunting
- Seal skins prepared for bleaching
- Polar bear hunting
- Build/repair skin boats

**February**

- Trapping continues
- Caribou skins drying outside
- Seal and ugruk skins also drying/bleaching
- Continue build/repair skin boats

**March**

- Some polar bear hunting
- Seal hunting
- Trapping continues for fox, wolf and wolverine
- Women sew ugruk skins for skin boats
- New skins put on boat frames
- Hunting tools repaired
- Female polar bears bring out their young

**April**

- End of trapping season
- Whaling season begins
- Caribou and ground squirrel hunting inland
- Time to clean cellars if not done during winter
- Birth of young seals

**May**

- Whaling continues
- Geese/ptarmigan hunting inland
- Duck hunting on ice
- Ice breakup on rivers
- Seals on ice at Qaaktugvik
- Ugruk have their young

**June**

- Nalukataq in the whaling communities (Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Barrow, Am, Point Hope)
- Going off to Summer camps
- Fishing on rivers and lakes begins
- Seal hunting
- Fish in Qaaktugvik

**July**

- Fish continues
- Caribou hunting
- Gathering eggs in Pt. Hope
- Ugruk and walrus hunting
- Drying meat and making seal oil
- Preparing ugruk skins for boats

**August**

- Caribou hunting by boats, some by snow machines
- Ugruk and aiviq hunting continues
- Ugruk skins prepared for boats/boot bottoms
- Duck hunting at Pigniq
- Boat frames build
- Geese hunting at Wainwright
- Tuktaq making time
- Fish on rivers
- Berry picking inland

**September**

- Panmaksrak coming through
- Some duck hunting
- Beginning of fall bowhead whale hunt
- Moose hunting
- Whaling in Kaktovik/Nuiqsut/Barrow

**October**

- Fall whaling continues
- Ice fishing on rivers and lakes
- Caribou hunting first part of the month
- Ice fishing along coastline for cod fish

**November**

- Polar bear hunting on the coastline
- Seal hunting
- Some hunters still at fish camps
- Traditional Thanksgiving Feast

**December**

- Trapping season for fox, wolf, wolverine
- Seal hunting
- Polar bear hunting
- Traditional Christmas Feasts
- Traditional games of skill and endurance

## APPENDICES



## **Appendix A: Abbreviations**

AEWC: Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission

ANCSA: Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

ANILCA: Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act

AOO: Alaska Operations Office, in Anchorage

EJ: Environmental Justice

G2G: Government to Government

ICAS: Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope

NS: North Slope

NSB: North Slope Borough

NSCP: North Slope Communication Protocol

## **Appendix B: North Slope Communication Protocol Guide**

### **Process Guide**

The following information is designed to serve as a helpful guide for you, taking you through some steps for fulfilling requirements of the Protocol. Optional sample worksheets are included as well.

#### **1. Early Communications**

1.1 The public communications process begins as soon as EPA learns of a project (perhaps even before a permit application is submitted, for example).

1.2 Identify potentially affected and interested parties, including EPA programs.

Make initial contact with all NS communities, as well as ICAS, AEWC, and the NSB, to determine the level of involvement that each community desires and what type(s) of communications might be most useful. The intent is to not add work beyond the capacity of the community; rather, we need to keep from inundating people with non-relevant notices and requests for their time.

1.3 To be completed by: Program staff person communicates with NS contacts by telephone.

#### **2. Communications Strategy**

2.1 Determine the communications required by the involved program.

2.2 Determine the range of program discretion within which communications can be conducted. Determine what is required by law or regulation, what is policy, what is general practice.

2.3 Determine whether a formal communications strategy should be prepared.

The answer will likely be “yes” if regulatory decisions will be made, permits will be processed, or other formal agency actions will occur.

2.4 Internal: Perform internal review, revision, and obtain appropriate approval of communications strategy, if written.

2.5 If no formal communications strategy is deemed necessary, then the Protocol and its principles of communication should still be followed.

2.6 To be completed by: Program staff person communicates with program manager, Alaska Operations Office contact, Community Involvement Coordinator, and Tribal Program contact.

Begin with telephone and email and establish conference meetings as necessary.

### 3. Community Input

3.1 Inform the North Slope community contacts about how the region plans to communicate, making sure it is in alignment with the needs of the community.

3.2 Establish the frequency at which communications can be expected; establish a routine if possible.

3.3 To be completed by: Program staff person by the agreed upon methods.

### 4. Implementation

4.1 Implement the communications strategy

4.2 To be completed by: Program staff person and Community Involvement Coordinator, as identified in the communications strategy.

- Integrate program requirements with project specific considerations.
- Be vigilant to identify potentially changing conditions.
- Communicate regularly with AOO staff.
- Read local Alaska newspapers.
- Keep your project on the minds of those you work with in case they have information useful to you.
- Return telephone calls and e-mail messages, being open to the discovery of something new.

### 5. Adaptive Management

5.1 Make a change:

To the “action process”

EXAMPLE: process halted to acquire new information

To the communications process

EXAMPLE: The publicly noticed 30-day comment period is extended because a public meeting held at day 15 of the comment period reveals that required agency documents will not be physically available in the communities for another 2 weeks. Since the EPA program requires that the public have 30 days access to these documents prior to the public hearing, the hearing will need to be rescheduled. Thus, in this case, the hearing is now likely to be at least 44 days from the date of the public meeting assuming that EPA is able to prepare and publish the necessary public notice of the rescheduled hearing during the 2 week wait for document arrival.

Example comment period timeline:

1 July –Beginning of 30 day comment period

15 July –Public Meeting held – document problem identified

29 July –Documents in communities

**MOST RAPID RESPONSE – LEAST CHANGE IN SCHEDULE:**

15 July to 29 July –EPA prepares and publishes Public Notice of rescheduled Public Hearing for 30 days following 29 July

28 August –Public Hearing can be held

Comment Period could end after the Public Hearing – however, good public participation practices would allow at least 5 days of comment period after a Public Hearing

Original comment period = 1 July to 30 July

Revised comment period = 1 July to 2 September

This example demonstrates the importance of planning for at least a 60-day window for comment periods so that neither the public nor the applicant is misled about the action schedule.

## 5.2 Make and communicate the change

As soon as possible talk with all involved parties explaining the situation and the action that has been taken. This must include communicating with other involved EPA program offices.

Establish a renewed (revised if necessary) routine and follow it.

**Sample Work Sheets** – *These are meant to help guide you in your work; do not be limited by the space available for any component and provide as much detail as is appropriate for your particular project.*

## **NORTH SLOPE COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL**

DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 PROJECT/ACTIVITY: \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 EPA Program-Primary/Lead \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary \_\_\_\_\_  
 Region 10 Person – Primary \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is this project/activity linked to another project/activity past, current, or future Y \_ N \_  
 Name of related project \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nature of linkage \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other Region 10 Program(s) involved \_\_\_\_\_

### **EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS**

CONTACT at North Slope Borough –  
 OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_  
 PERSON \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 CONTACT at City –  
 OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_  
 PERSON \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 CONTACT at Tribal Entity –  
 TRIBAL ENTITY \_\_\_\_\_  
 OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_  
 PERSON \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 CONTACT at State of Alaska –  
 OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_  
 PERSON \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

### **INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS**

CONTACT with Sector(s) –  
 SECTOR \_\_\_\_\_  
 PERSON \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 G2G  
 OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_  
 PERSON \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 CONTACT with Alaska Operations Office –  
 OFFICE-PROGRAM \_\_\_\_\_  
 PERSON \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 OFFICE-TRIBAL LIAISON \_\_\_\_\_  
 PERSON \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**PROTOCOL ACTION(S)**

TRIBAL Government-to-Government Consultation Notification Sent Y \_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_

Government to Government Letter sent to:

OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

G2G Activity – Separate File Created Y \_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_

Person Responsible for G2G \_\_\_\_\_

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – Required Y \_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_

Public Comment Period Dates:

Begins: \_\_\_\_\_

Ends: \_\_\_\_\_

Response to Comments Due: \_\_\_\_\_

DOES REGION 10 NEED TO SOLICIT PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MORE THAN ONE PROGRAM, PROJECT, OR ACTIVITY? Y \_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_

If yes, then, describe the coordination taking place and accommodations to limit the demands on the communities for their engagement on multiple issues:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SUBSISTENCE/CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS**

When will EPA's action take place? \_\_\_\_\_

What subsistence activities occur during this time of year? \_\_\_\_\_

What considerations are necessary to accommodate the subsistence/cultural needs of the residents? \_\_\_\_\_

What limitations does Region 10 have to work within? \_\_\_\_\_

Has the public comment period been established to best accommodate the limitations of the region and the needs of the residents? Y \_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_

If not, explain why not: \_\_\_\_\_

Who made the decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**COORDINATION WITH EPA PROGRAMS**

OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

# **MILEPOSTS – TIMELINE for Project/Activity**

1. Region 10 becomes aware of project or activity. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Program has communication with external party regarding the project.
3. Program communicates internally with other programs to provide early notification and increase Regional awareness.
4. Program provides regular update to North Slope residents [perhaps through monthly teleconference with ICAS or Village Voice program if either or both are implemented] This is both informal sharing of information and formal notice of pending work or action.
5. Program receives documents that trigger the beginning of Region 10’s official involvement (ie, permit application). DATE: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Coordination within Region 10 formalized.
7. Communications plan developed in collaboration with communities and implemented. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Continuing interaction with applicant, residents, government agencies, and programs as Region proceeds with project/activity.
9. Provide close-out update summarizing the project/activity history, the comments received from residents, and Region 10’s responses to those comments.
10. Evaluate your communication efforts and lessons learned.

## Appendix C: Travel to the North Slope - What You Need to Know

Traveling to the North Slope (NS) presents some unique challenges.

**Flights are less reliable.** For example, planes will not fly in white-out conditions or temperatures below 45 degrees below zero F. NS flights are limited, as planes may fly in to and out of certain villages only on certain days of the week, and usually only once per day, requiring at least an overnight stay. Realize these are small bush planes, with limited seating. Reserve flights early. Build flexibility into your schedule. Watch the weather forecast for the villages before you go ([www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) is one resource; NOAA's Alaska Regional Office website is also recommended [www.arh.noaa.gov](http://www.arh.noaa.gov)). Make contingency planning a priority.

Airlines which fly to NS communities include Alaska Airlines (only to Barrow), Frontier Flying, and Bering Air.

**Lodging:** Arranging lodging in certain NS communities can be a challenge. In Barrow, the largest community on the NS, there are somewhat limited public accommodations. In other villages there are even fewer public accommodations. For example, you may need to sleep in the gym or perhaps on the floor of the community center. To find out, discuss arrangements with the villages during your early communications.

**Getting Around:** As with lodging, call to find out how to manage local transportation. There are no rental cars, and in many cases no taxis.

**Dining:** Dining options are extremely limited and those that exist may have limited hours. You may need to bring your own food. Check in advance with your community contacts to find out what your available options are at that time. Plan ahead, remembering that flights do not have food and can be long.

**Money:** There are only two ATMs on the entire NS. Bring plenty of cash and personal checks as many places cannot process credit or debit cards.

**Packing:** Plan your packing with layering in mind. Also, it's in your best interest to pack as lightly as possible—you have to carry it, sometimes a long way, and in the cold. Consider time of year, and pack accordingly.

### Personal Gear to Bring with You:

- sunglasses (in winter, too)
- insect repellent
- snacks (plenty of them, as certain villages offer few amenities)
- casual clothes and tough footwear (no suits and ties)



- sleeping gear depending on your lodging arrangements
- clothing with pockets near the body to hold things you do not want to freeze (like eye drops, lip balm, moisturizer, camera, small flashlight, hand wipes, water bottle, etc.)
- sturdy boots (well insulated with no steel toes in winter; insulated mud-boots in summer)
- wool socks and pants (wool is better than cotton)
- thermal underwear
- warm (down) jacket with hood
- hat that covers ears, scarf, gloves
- flashlight
- sleeping mask for eyes (accommodations in the villages do not always have curtains on the windows to block out the light in the summer)
- flip-flops (bathrooms may be communal at some village accommodations)
- ear plugs for sleeping (you may be sharing a room with someone who snores)

**Note:** In winter, put on your warm wear before you exit the plane. The walk into a building can be a long one if you are not prepared for the cold. The plane can be cold, too!

### **Agency Equipment and Meeting Supplies**

Each trip will have a particular purpose(s). Consequently, it is important that you give early, thoughtful consideration to the equipment and supplies that you will need to bring so that your trip is effective and productive. It is not possible to compile a complete list of equipment and supplies that may be required, but you should consider the fact that there are not office supply stores in the villages.

#### **Suggestions:**

- Visual aids (graphics) for your discussion are very valuable – they help to bridge the cultural and language differences that you will be working with and, if done well, convey a great deal of information in a small space. Remember that when dealing with different languages, a table with numbers and words is often meaningless; instead use graphics, drawings, pictures, maps.
- Consider the possible need for a flip chart or white dry erase board. If you are going to be outdoors, markers freeze and are unusable.
- Do you need a projector? Does your location have electricity? Do you need to bring long extension cords, etc.?
- If there will be a formal hearing, bring sign-in sheets, pencils, etc.

#### **Other considerations:**

There may be electricity, indoor plumbing, and land-line telephones; however, cell phone and Wi-Fi coverage is minimal to non-existent. Limited internet service, mostly by dial-up, may be available. Note that buildings are kept quite warm, usually 75 degrees or more --- the temperature differential between inside and outside can be extreme. Layer up! So you can layer down inside.

## Appendix D: Tool Box

### **Internal EPA Contacts**

The following staff have direct experience working with North Slope (NS) communities and are available for consultation:

- Tribal Coordinator located in AOO working the NS (contact Tribal Program Unit manager for contact information)
- Resource Extraction Tribal Coordinator located in AOO

The following staff have program area specialty experience and are available for consultation:

- Community Involvement Coordinator (contact Community Involvement and Public Information Unit, Seattle)
- Environmental Justice Program Manager located in Seattle

The Region 10 Public Environmental Resource Center (PERC) has simultaneous translation equipment available for checkout, as well as educational materials for use at public meetings.

### **Community Contacts**

The following contacts work with and/or live in NS communities and may be available as a resource. For a particular project, always contact the office to determine current personnel and their contact information.

North Slope Borough  
Office of the Mayor  
P.O. Box 69  
Barrow, AK 99723  
(907) 852-0200

Native Village of Barrow  
Office of the Tribal Council President  
P.O. Box 1130  
Barrow, AK 99723  
(907) 852-4411/4412

Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS)  
IRA Tribal Organization  
Office of the President  
P.O. Box 934  
Barrow, AK 99723  
(907) 852-4227

City of Anaktuvuk Pass  
Office of the Mayor  
P.O. Box 21030  
Anaktuvuk Pass, AK 99721  
(907) 661-3612

City of Barrow  
Office of the Mayor  
P.O. Box 629  
Barrow, AK 99723  
(907) 852-5211

Native Village of Anaktuvuk Pass (Nagsragmiut Tribal Council)  
Office of the Tribal Council President  
P.O. Box 21065  
Anaktuvuk Pass, AK 99721  
(907) 661-2535

City of Atkasuk  
Office of the Mayor  
P.O. Box 91119  
Atkasuk, AK 99791  
(907) 633-6811

Native Village of Atkasuk  
Office of the Tribal Council President  
P.O. Box 91108  
Atkasuk, AK 99791  
(907) 633-2575

City of Kaktovik  
Office of the Mayor  
P.O. Box 27  
Kaktovik, AK 99747  
(907) 640-6313

Native Village of Kaktovik  
Office of the Tribal Council President  
P.O. Box 73  
Kaktovik, AK 99747  
(907) 640-2042/2043

City of Nuiqsut  
Office of the Mayor  
PO Box 148  
Nuiqsut, AK 99789  
(907) 480-6727

Native Village of Nuiqsut  
Office of the Tribal Council President  
P.O. Box 89169  
Nuiqsut, AK 99789  
(907) 480-3010

City of Point Hope  
Office of the Mayor  
P.O. Box 169  
Point Hope, AK 99766  
(907) 368-2537

Native Village of Point Hope  
Office of the Tribal Council President  
P.O. Box 109  
Point Hope, AK 99766  
(907) 368-2330

City of Point Lay  
Office of the Mayor  
P.O. Box 59  
Point Lay, AK 99759  
(907) 833-2428

Native Village of Point Lay  
Office of the Tribal Council President  
P.O. Box 59  
Point Lay, AK 99759  
(907) 833-2775

City of Wainwright  
Office of the Mayor  
P.O. Box 9  
Wainwright, AK 99782  
(907) 763-2815

Wainwright Traditional Council  
Office of the Tribal Council President  
P.O. Box 143  
Wainwright, AK 99782  
(907) 763-2535

Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission  
Office of the Chairman  
P.O. Box 570  
Barrow, AK 99723  
(907) 852-2392

## **Post Offices**

All current contact information is available through the North Slope Borough website at:  
North Slope Borough Information, North Slope Borough Directory  
<http://www.north-slope.org/departments/mayorsoffice/downloads/NSBDirectory>

## **Websites**

Here is a sampling of websites. Note that not all communities or organizations have websites.

ARLIS, Alaska Resource Library and Information Services (“The mother lode of Alaska resources information”): [www.arlis.org](http://www.arlis.org)  
North Slope Borough: [www.north-slope.org](http://www.north-slope.org)  
Arctic Slope Regional Corporation: [www.arsc.com](http://www.arsc.com)  
Kuukpik Corporation: [www.kuukpik.com](http://www.kuukpik.com)  
City of Barrow: [www.cityofbarrow.org](http://www.cityofbarrow.org)  
City of Nuiqsut: [www.nuiqsutalaska.com](http://www.nuiqsutalaska.com)  
City of Kaktovik: [www.kaktovik.com](http://www.kaktovik.com)

## **News Outlets**

Here is a list of publications which may be appropriate for running press releases, display ads, and/or public notices.

Anchorage Daily News: (907) 257-4300  
Petroleum News: (907) 522-9469  
Arctic Sounder: (907) 852-2531  
Daily News Miner: (907) 459-7548  
North Slope News: (907) 852-2611

For Public Service Announcement or to offer interviews:

KBRW Radio: (907) 852-6811  
KOTZ Radio (only if western villages may be interested): (907) 442-3434  
GCI, the local television station (you may be able to request a scrolling message be placed on the screen)—check locally to get contact information

Ask for your public notices to be posted in post offices, city offices, and village offices.  
(Send those notices to multiple locations within the community.)

Note: An informal CB radio network exists among the villages. When there are visitors or events, it is likely that the local residents will hear about it through this CB system. While it is not an official means to get information distributed, it could be worthwhile to ask your community contacts about this option.

### **Translation Services**

Talk with the community and determine the need for a translator. It is important to respect the wishes of the community with regard to the selection of a translator; a village may have a very strong opinion regarding the accuracy or bias of a translator that they have had experience with in the past. You need to work with the tribal coordinator and the community to effectively address this need. Simultaneous translation equipment is available for checkout from the Region 10 Public Environmental Resource Center (PERC).

### **Court Reporters**

Generally check for companies located in Anchorage. It is common practice for the quote to include the travel costs.

### **Mailing Lists**

Once again, contact the community, the Alaska Operations Office, and the Tribal program and work together to determine the extent of your mailing list. Appropriate mailing lists are built on a project-by-project basis. Although other mailing lists may exist in the Region and may be a useful reference, they are not likely the right mailing list for your project. It is not acceptable to merely add contacts to that an existing mailing list. We have heard repeatedly that we (the government) are flooding the people with so much paper that they cannot read it all, and they cannot easily determine if the notice they received is relevant to them or not. We need to work to refine our contact lists *for each project*, rather than using an existing list and adding to it.

### **Whaling Season**

Call the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission to learn the specifics about the current whaling season plans. In general, spring season runs from late March through the end of May. Fall season runs from the beginning of August through the end of September. However, dates vary, and it is necessary to check. Call the executive director at (907) 852-2303.

As the Example Subsistence Year (see Section 5) demonstrates, however, there is never a time when there is nothing that needs to be done. It is important to remember that in order to go whaling, there has to be sufficient other food available, caribou, fish, birds, to sustain the community and the whalers while they are engaged in whaling. Check with your community contacts to design a community involvement effort that makes sense given current subsistence activities.

## Appendix E: About Each Native Village

On the following pages, you will find summary background information about each of the North Slope villages. This information was copied verbatim on April 28, 2008, from the NS Borough website at [www.north-slope.org](http://www.north-slope.org).

Please note that this information may not be current in every case. Also, because of its introductory nature, it may not tell the whole story. For example, the hotel referenced in the Nuiqsut section actually refers to a work camp that is open only at certain times of the year. Please check all details with your village contact before making any final arrangements.

### **BARROW**

#### **The Community**

Barrow is the economic, transportation and administrative center for the North Slope Borough. Located on the Chukchi Sea coast, Barrow is the northernmost community in the United States. The community is traditionally known as Ukpeagvik, “place where snowy owls are hunted.” Barrow was incorporated as a first-class city in 1959.

Barrow takes its modern name from Point Barrow, named in 1825 by Captain Beechey of the Royal Navy for Sir John Barrow of the British Admiralty. Beechey was plotting the Arctic coastline of North America at the time.

An important historical site in the area is the Birnick archaeological site which contains 16 dwelling mounds of a culture believed to have existed from 500-900 AD. The archaeological findings are considered a key link between the prehistoric cultures of Alaska and Canada. Another interesting site is the Cape Smythe Whaling and Trading Station in nearby Browerville. Cape Smythe was built as a whaling station in 1893 and is the oldest frame building in the Arctic.

During the 1940s and 1950s, the military played an influential role in the area. Construction of the Distant Early Warning (DEW) line and exploration in the National Petroleum Reserve brought new people to the region. During the same time, the Naval Arctic Research Lab (NARL) was built near Barrow. Visitors to Barrow will arrive at the Wiley Post-Will Rogers Memorial Airport. This airport was named to commemorate the famous pilot and the American humorist who died in an airplane crash just 15 miles south of Barrow in 1935. Across from the airport sits the Will Rogers and Wiley Post Monument.

#### **Population/Economy**

The largest city in the North Slope Borough, Barrow has 4,429 residents, of which approximately 61 percent are Iñupiat Eskimo. Although Barrow is a modern community, subsistence hunting, fishing and whaling are still very important to the local economy. Many residents who work full- or part-time continue to hunt and fish for much of their food

In 2003, approximately one-third of the working population of 1,935 was employed in the private sector. Only a few work for oil companies at Prudhoe Bay. The borough employs 46 percent of the work force and the NSB School District employs another 19 percent.

### Quality of Life

Most Barrow homes are heated by natural gas from nearby gas fields, and have modern water and sewer systems. Utilities are available through Barrow Utilities and Electric Cooperative, a member-owned cooperative, which offers electricity, natural gas and water/sewer services. Water is also delivered by truck to homes beyond the piped distribution system. The NSB provides trash pick-up.

As the seat of the North Slope Borough, Barrow is home to many regional health and social services. These public facilities include: a hospital, senior citizen center, women's shelter, children & youth services center, library, and job training and assistance center. Public safety and fire protection are also provided.

The community is served by seven churches, elementary, middle and high schools and a post-secondary education center, Ilisagvik College. On evenings and weekends, the high school's swimming pool, weight room and gym are open to the public. Residents also use Barrow's recreation center, which boasts a gym, racquetball courts, weight room and sauna. The City operates an inflatable dome for ice skating and hockey in the winter and soccer during the summer.

Communications in Barrow include phone, mail, a public radio station, Internet capability and cable TV. The community also has four hotels, eight restaurants, a dry cleaner, fur shop and a bank. Barrow has a large grocery/merchandise store and three convenience stores. Barrow bans the sale of alcoholic beverages. Major repair services are available for marine, auto and aircraft engines. Diesel, propane, marine gas, aviation fuel and all grades of auto gas are available.

During the summer months, tour operators offer package tours of Barrow and the surrounding area. Visitors learn about the North Slope's traditional culture at the Inupiat Heritage Center, where they can also purchase arts and crafts such as baleen boats, etched baleen, carved ivory, masks, parkas and fur mittens.

Barrow is served by passenger jet service from Anchorage and Fairbanks. Freight arrives by barge in the summer and air cargo year-round.

### For more information contact:

City of Barrow  
PO Box 629  
Barrow, Alaska 99723  
(907) 852-5211  
[cityofbarrow.org](http://cityofbarrow.org)

## **ANAKTUVUK PASS**

### **The Community**

Anaktuvuk Pass is located on a divide between the Anaktuvuk and John Rivers in the central Brooks Range. The village lies about 250 miles northwest of Fairbanks and about the same distance southeast of Barrow. Anaktuvuk Pass is one of the most scenic villages on the North Slope, surrounded by tall mountains and near rivers and lakes. The community is located in the Gates of the Arctic National Parks and Preserve.

Anaktuvuk Pass, a historic caribou migration route, is the last remaining settlement of the inland Iñupiat Eskimo, the Nunamiut. The original nomadic Nunamiut left the Brooks Range and scattered in the early 1900s, mostly due to the collapse of the caribou population. By the 1940s, several Nunamiut families returned to the area and settled at the broad, treeless Anaktuvuk Pass, “the place of caribou droppings.” The community was incorporated as a fourth-class city in 1959 and upgraded to a second-class city in 1971.

There is a year-round museum in Anaktuvuk Pass that celebrates the early natural, geological and cultural history of the area, including the migration of people across the Bering Land Bridge. The museum also displays Nunamiut clothing, household goods and hunting implements used around the time of the first contact with Westerners.

### **Population and Economy**

As of 2003, there were 346 people living in Anaktuvuk Pass and a work force of 157. The Nunamiut make up 88 percent of the population. Anaktuvuk’s economy is largely based on subsistence hunting of caribou, which migrate through the pass in the spring and fall. Fish, birds and berries are also important subsistence foods.

The private sector employs close to one-quarter of the labor force, the North Slope Borough employs 39 percent, and the School District employs another 23 percent. Through the museum, residents sell carvings and the caribou skin masks for which the village is widely known.

### **Quality of Life**

The North Slope Borough provides Anaktuvuk Pass with public electricity and piped water and sewer services. The NSB also provides trash pick-up free of charge. A health clinic, staffed by community health aides, is open during the day and available at all times for emergencies. Anaktuvuk has a public safety building and a fire station, equipped with a fire engine and an ambulance.

Public education is provided by the Nunamiut School, with classes from pre-school through grade 12. Vocational education and adult basic education is also available.

The local village corporation, Nunamiut Corporation, owns a hotel, a grocery and merchandise store, and also sells propane fuel and gasoline. The sale, possession or importation of alcoholic beverages is prohibited by law.



Transportation to Anaktuvuk Pass is available via scheduled and chartered flights from Fairbanks or Barrow. Cargo arrives by air transport. Communications in the village include phone, mail, public radio and cable television.

[For more information contact:](#)

City of Anaktuvuk Pass  
PO Box 21030  
Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska 99721  
(907) 661-3612

## **ATQASUK**

### [The Community](#)

Atqasuk is located inland from the Arctic Ocean on the Meade River, about 60 miles southwest of Barrow. Atqasuk has long been established as a hunting and fishing ground. Abandoned sod houses, an old cellar and gravesite near the village provide evidence of an early settlement here.

During World War II, coal was mined in the community and freighted to Barrow. During the next 10 years, the village existed under the name of Meade River. Although the population dwindled in the 1960s, former residents from Barrow moved to the community in the 1970s and re-established the village under the name of Atqasuk. The village was incorporated as a second-class city in 1982.

### [Population and Economy](#)

Atqasuk has a population of 250 residents and a work force of 72 as of 2003. Inupiat Eskimos comprise 91 percent of the population. Atqasuk's economy is largely based on subsistence caribou hunting and fishing. Fish in the Meade River include grayling, burbot, salmon and whitefish. Local game includes ptarmigan, ducks and geese. Residents also travel to the coast to participate in whaling and hunting other marine mammals.

The North Slope Borough employs close to 28 percent of the working population and the School District employs another 28 percent. Forty-three percent of the labor force works for the private sector or corporations. Some residents also produce arts and crafts for sale including masks, mittens, dolls, yo-yos, ulus and parkas.

### [Quality Of Life](#)

The North Slope Borough provides Atqasuk with public electricity and piped water and sewer services. The NSB also provides trash pick-up. Atqasuk has a public safety building and a fire station equipped with a fire engine and an ambulance. A health clinic staffed by community health aides is open during the day and is available for emergencies around the clock.

The Meade River School offers public education from pre-school to grade 12 and adult basic education. Communications include phone, mail, public radio and cable television.

The village corporation, Atqasuk Corporation, owns a grocery and merchandise store which sells food, clothing, first-aid supplies, cameras, film and hardware. Propane, gas, diesel and motor oil are also available. Atqasuk bans the sale and importation of alcoholic beverages.

A scheduled airline and air taxi service from Barrow provides passenger and cargo service to Atqasuk.

[For more information contact:](#)

City of Atqasuk  
P.O. Box 91119  
Atqasuk, AK 99791  
(907) 633-6811

## **KAKTOVIK**

### [The Community](#)

Kaktovik is 90 miles west of the Canadian border and 280 miles southeast of Barrow. The village is on the northern shore of Barter Island and the edge of the 20-million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The ruins of old Kaktovik can be seen from the road linking the village to the airport. The community incorporated as a second class city in 1971.

### [Population and Economy](#)

In 2003, there were 286 residents in Kaktovik and a labor force of 98. Eighty-eight percent of residents are Inupiat Eskimo. Thirty-two percent of the working residents are employed by the North Slope Borough, and another 25 percent work for the School District. Thirty-seven percent of the work force is employed in the private sector, primarily by Native corporations and their affiliates. Like other communities in the region, subsistence hunting, fishing and whaling play a major role in the local economy. Hunting in the nearby area is for Dall sheep, moose, caribou, and fox. The community also produces arts and crafts for sale such as etched baleen, carved ivory and masks.

The community also produces arts and crafts for sale such as etched baleen, carved ivory and masks. About one in every five household heads in Kaktovik receives monies from craft income.

### [Quality of Life](#)

The Borough provides Kaktovik with public electricity and delivers piped water and sewer services. The NSB also provides trash pick-up.

The Harold Kaveolook School offers education from pre-school through grade 12 and adult basic education. Communications include phones, mail, public radio and cable TV.

A health clinic, staffed by community health aides, is open during the day and available around the clock for emergencies. Kaktovik has a public safety building and a fire station equipped with fire engines and an ambulance.

The Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation operates a hotel and runs the local store, which provides groceries, clothing, first-aid supplies, hardware, camera film and sporting goods. Fishing and hunting licenses and guide services are available in the community. Available fuel includes marine gas, diesel, propane, unleaded and regular. There are repair services for autos and aircrafts, and charter aircraft service is available.

Transportation to the village is provided by scheduled airlines and air taxi service from Barrow and Fairbanks. Freight arrives by cargo plane and barge. Kaktovik is a “dry” village in which the sale and possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.

[For more information contact:](#)

City of Kaktovik  
PO Box 27  
Kaktovik, AK 99747  
(907) 640-6313

## **NUIQSUT**

### [The Community](#)

Nuiqsut is located about 18 miles south of the Colville River headwaters at the Beaufort Sea, and 135 miles southeast of Barrow. The Colville River Delta has traditionally been a gathering and trading place for the Inupiat, and a good source for hunting and fishing. After 27 Barrow families moved overland to the area, the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation funded construction of the village in 1974. The new residents lived in a tent city for 18 months before permanent housing could be built. Nuiqsut was incorporated as a second class city in 1975.

### [Population and Economy](#)

In 2003, there were 416 residents in Nuiqsut and a labor force of 169. Approximately 92 percent of residents are Inupiat Eskimo. Like all North Slope villages, Nuiqsut’s economy is based primarily on subsistence hunting, fishing and whaling. Nearby subsistence species include bowhead whales, caribou, seals, moose and waterfowl; fish include whitefish, burbot, arctic char and grayling.

More than 55 percent of the work force is employed in the private sector, mostly by the Kuukpik village corporation and the construction industry. The North Slope Borough employs 30 percent of the local labor force and the School District employs another nine percent.

Some residents sell local arts and crafts, including skin masks and boats, fur mittens, parkas and carved ivory.

### [Quality of Life](#)

The borough provides public electricity and water/wastewater services. Trash pick-up is also provided by the borough.

Trapper School holds classes from pre-school to grade 12 and offers adult basic education. A health clinic, staffed by community health aides, is open each day and is available 24 hours a day for emergencies. Nuiqsut has a public safety building and fire station equipped with a fire engine and an ambulance. Communications include phones, mail, public radio and cable TV.

Kuukpik Corporation operates a local hotel. Supplies available in town include groceries, clothing, first-aid supplies, hardware, camera film and sporting goods. Available fuel includes marine gas, diesel, propane, white gas kerosene and regular gasoline. The City of Nuiqsut bans the possession, sale and importation of alcoholic beverages.

Residents and visitors enjoy such activities as snowmobile rides, bingo and activities at the Kisik Community Center. Traditional dances are performed on the Fourth of July and at other celebrations. The community is served by a Presbyterian Church. Nuiqsut also has a softball field.

Nuiqsut is served by scheduled and chartered flights from Barrow. Freight arrives year-round by air cargo.

Nuiqsut residents have access to the Dalton Highway four months of the year. It is Alaska's northernmost town with road access.

[For more information contact:](#)

City of Nuiqsut  
PO Box 148  
Nuiqsut, AK 99789  
(907) 480-6727

## **POINT HOPE**

### [The Community](#)

Point Hope is located near the end of a triangular spit jutting 15 miles into the Chukchi Sea 250 miles southwest of Barrow. This peninsula is one of the longest continually inhabited areas in North America. Some of the earliest residents came here for bowhead whaling some 2,000 years ago after crossing the Siberian land bridge.

Visitors to the area can see the remains of Old Tigara Village, a prehistoric site with the remains of sod houses. There is an even earlier site with about 800 house pits known as Ipiutak, occupied from about 500 BC to 100 AD. Ipiutak and the surrounding archaeological district are on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to the prehistoric village sites, there are old burial grounds in the area including a cemetery marked by large whale bones standing on end.

Point Hope was incorporated in 1966 and six years later became a second-class city. Erosion and a threat of storm flooding from the Chukchi Sea led to its relocation to higher ground in the mid-1970s

### Population and Economy

Point Hope is the second largest city on the North Slope with a population of 764 and a labor force of 293. As of 2003, Inupiat Eskimos make up 91 percent of Point Hope's population. The local economy is largely based on subsistence hunting, fishing and whaling. The Borough employs more than 18 percent of the working population and the school district employs 26 percent. Close to forty percent of the labor force works in the private sector.

Residents produce a wide array of arts and crafts for sale including carved ivory, baleen baskets, whale bone, masks, caribou skin masks, etched baleen, Eskimo parkas, ivory-tipped harpoons and bird spears.

### Quality of Life

The North Slope Borough provides public electricity and piped water/sewer services, as well as trash pick-up. A health clinic, staffed by community health aides, is open each day and is available at all times for emergencies. Other public facilities include the city hall, public safety building, fire station, senior citizen center and day care center.

Tikigaq School provides education from pre-school to grade 12 and offers adult basic education classes. Communications in town include phones, mail, public radio and cable TV.

Tikigaq Corporation, Point Hope's village corporation, runs the Native store and sells groceries, clothing, first-aid supplies, hardware, camera film and sporting goods. City law prohibits the sale or possession of alcohol. Fuel in town includes marine gas, diesel, propane, unleaded, regular and supreme.

The community comes together to celebrate the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Nalukataq, the feast at the end of a successful whaling season. Other activities include boating, wildlife viewing and bingo. Churches in the community include an Episcopal Church, Assembly of God and Church of Christ.

Point Hope is served by scheduled and chartered flights from Barrow and Kotzebue.

### For more information contact:

City of Point Hope  
PO Box 169  
Point Hope, AK 99766  
(907) 368-2537

## **POINT LAY**

### The Community

Perched on the Chukchi Sea coast 150 miles southwest of Barrow, Point Lay is protected from the open ocean by the Kasugluk Lagoon. The Eskimo name for the village is Kali, which means "mound" and refers to the elevated ground on which it stands. It is probably the last remaining village of the Kuukpaagruk people. The deeply indented shoreline prevented effective bowhead whaling and the village never fully participated in the whaling culture.

The village's traditional hunt of the beluga whales is similar to the bowhead whaling culture in other North Slope villages. .

Point Lay is incorporated as a Native village by the Bureau of Indian Affairs under the Indian Reorganization Act. The village is not incorporated under state law as a municipality.

### **Population and Economy**

Point Lay had a population of 260 residents in 2003, with a work force of 98. Eighty-six percent of residents are Inupiat Eskimo. Point Lay's economy is primarily based on subsistence hunting, fishing and whaling. The North Slope Borough employs 29 percent of the labor force and the School District employs another 34 percent. Twenty-nine percent of workers are in the private sector, mostly for the village and regional Native corporations.

### **Quality of Life**

As in other villages, the North Slope Borough provides public electricity and piped water/wastewater services. Trash pick-up is also provided by the borough.

A health clinic, staffed by community health aides, is open daily and is accessible for emergencies around the clock. Other public facilities include a cultural center, construction camp, and a fire station equipped with a fire engine and an ambulance. Point Lay's Cully School provides education from pre-school through grade 12, as well as adult basic education.

The Native Village of Point Lay owns the local store, which sells groceries and clothing. Available fuel in town includes propane, diesel and regular gasoline. Point Lay bans the sale, possession and importation of alcoholic beverages.

Passenger service to Point Lay is available by scheduled airline flights and charters from Barrow. Freight is delivered by air and barge. Communications in the village include phones, mail, public radio and cable TV.

For recreation, residents enjoy snowmobiling, hunting, fishing and trapping.

### **For more information contact:**

Native Village of Point Lay  
P.O. Box 59  
Point Lay, Alaska 99759  
(907) 833-2428

## **WAINWRIGHT**

### **The Community**

Wainwright sits on a wave-eroded coastal bluff of a narrow peninsula which separates Wainwright Inlet from the Chukchi Sea. Wainwright is about 70 miles southwest of Barrow.

The inlet was named in 1826 by Captain F.W. Beechey for his officer, Lt. John Wainwright. The present village was established in 1904 when the Alaska Native Service built a school there. The community was incorporated as a second-class city in 1962.

### Population and Economy

Wainwright is the third largest village in the North Slope Borough, and in 2003 had a population of 556 and work force of 221. Ninety-four percent of the residents are Inupiat Eskimo. Wainwright has a larger private sector than most villages: 38 percent of the work force is employed by private businesses, primarily the village and regional corporations. The Borough employs 30 percent of the work force and the School District provides jobs for another 25 percent.

Wainwright's subsistence hunting revolves primarily around whales and caribou. Local arts and crafts include carved ivory figurines and jewelry, baleen boats, whale bone carvings, clocks, knitted caps and gloves.

### Quality Of life

The North Slope Borough delivers electricity and piped water/wastewater services, and hauls residential trash.

A health clinic, staffed by community health aides, is open daily and handles emergencies around the clock. Other public facilities include the public safety office, fire station, vehicle maintenance facility and teacher housing.

Wainwright's children attend Alak School from pre-school to grade 12. The community also offers adult basic education and vocational education. The school has a swimming pool and gymnasium which are also used by the public.

Olgoonik Corporation, Wainwright's village corporation, sells groceries, clothing, first-aid supplies, hardware, camera film and sporting goods through the community store. Fuel in town includes marine gas, diesel, propane, unleaded, regular and supreme. City law prohibits the possession, sale or importation of alcohol.

Visitors to Wainwright will find a hotel, restaurant and several recreational activities. In the spring, the community gathers for Nalukataq, the feast after a successful whaling season. At this and other occasions, Eskimo dances are performed by the villagers. Recreational activities include boating, snowmobiling and smelt fishing in the spring.

Wainwright is served by scheduled and chartered air service from Barrow. Freight arrives by cargo plane and barge. Communications include phones, mail, public radio and cable TV.

### For more information contact:

City of Wainwright  
PO Box 9  
Wainwright, AK 99782  
(907) 763-2815

## **Appendix F: Communication Strategy Template**

On the following page is a communication strategy template which can be used for EPA projects affecting the North Slope. This template is provided as a reference and general guide.

Each communication strategy will be different, because each will be tailored to the project at hand, factoring in the expressed needs of the local communities.

Not all projects may warrant preparation of a formal communication strategy. It is the responsibility of the program to prepare a communication strategy. If assistance is required, contact the Community Involvement and Public Information Unit.

When preparing a communication strategy, it will be helpful to review the section called “Implementing the Protocol” presented earlier in this document.

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- [illegible]

**Are other EPA projects taking place related to the North Slope or your specific project during this time? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ (If yes, describe, and explain how coordination is taking place.)**

**Communication Goals:**

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**Key Messages:** (The 2 to 4 primary points you want people to remember. State in bullets or sound-bites.)

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**Name, Affiliation, Phone, Email, Who Calls, When-**

**Note How You Will Establish and Maintain Contact with North Slope Communities:**

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- 

**Audiences/Interested Groups:**

- ☐ Local Officials
- ☐ Other North Slope Community Contacts
- ☐ Environmental Groups
- ☐ Industry Groups
- ☐ Media (work with EPA Press Officer)
- ☐ Congressionals/Governor's Office (work with EPA Congressional Liaison)
- ☐ State Agencies
- ☐ Federal Agencies
- ☐ Others: List

**Anticipated Reactions:**

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**Recommended Outreach Activities (check those that apply):**

- ☐ News Release or Other Media Activity (work with Press Officer)
- ☐ Congressional Work (work with Congressional Liaison)
- ☐ Telephone Notifications (e.g. community contacts, state and local officials, permittee, other key stakeholders, etc)
- ☐ Fact Sheet
- ☐ Public Comment Period (allow 60-day timeframe even if 30-day comment period)
- ☐ Formal Public Hearings
- ☐ Public Meetings
- ☐ Public Site Tour
- ☐ Workshops
- ☐ Postings in Community Locations
- ☐ Display Ads in Papers
- ☐ Documents to Information Repository
- ☐ Creation of a Tailored Mailing List
- ☐ Check-in with Community on Translation Needs
- ☐ Use of Local Informal CB Network
- ☐ EPA Letter
- ☐ Internal Talking Points Paper
- ☐ Webpage Creation and/or Maintenance
- ☐ Brochure
- ☐ Other

**Note Environmental Justice Considerations Here:**

**Note Government-to-Government Consultation Considerations Here:**

**Other Important Considerations:**

**Lessons Learned:**

## **Appendix G: List of Preparers**

This Protocol document was prepared by the NSCP team, with input from representatives and residents of North Slope communities and EPA Region 10 programs.

Members of the EPA team include:

**Ted Rockwell**, Team Leader, Senior Advisor, Oil & Gas Sector, Anchorage

**Cathy Villa**, Alaska Tribal Coordinator, Anchorage

**Running Grass**, Environmental Justice Program Manager, Seattle

**Andrea Lindsay**, Community Involvement Coordinator, Seattle